



THE BAUMHOLDER BUGLE

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CHANGES TO MEDICAL BOARD PROCESS

Beginning the first of October there has been a huge change in the way Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) cases are handled. Now, once a Soldier receives a P3 or P4 profile, they are referred to a totally new process called the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES).

The first noticeable change will be that the Soldier will be PCSed to one of six locations in the United States and assigned a Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) there. These six locations are currently Fort Bragg, Fort Gordon, Fort Hood, Fort Lewis and Fort Sam Houston. When possible, Soldiers will be assigned

to whichever of these six is closest to their home or to their family members. Once the Soldier is PCSed, the MEB phase of IDES is started by an evaluation by a doctor who works for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). If the findings of this evaluation show that the Soldier does not meet medical standards needed to remain in the Army, he will be referred to the Physical Evaluation Board (PED). However, before he is referred, he will be given seven days to respond to the results of the MEB. The Office of Soldiers Counsel is available to give advice and

direction to Soldiers going through this process. The PEB will decide if any condition causes the Soldier to not be able to perform their primary military occupational specialty (PMOS) duties. If it does, a VA disability rating will be done at that time for all conditions. If the Soldier does not agree, he can have a board hearing to challenge the VA rating or the unfit for duty decision, or both, at the same time. This new integrated process saves the Soldier from having to apply to the VA separately for a disability rating.



Important telephone numbers:

Legal Assistance

485-6505

Claims Office

485-6507

International Affairs

485-6286

Trial Defense Service

485-6483

Baumholder Tax Center Needs Tax Preparers!

Tax season is approaching fast. Fear not! Baumholder Tax center is here to help you. That is our mission. We will open our doors 26 January 2012 and stay in operation until 15 June 2011.

Every year our tax center has relied on paid and volunteer tax preparers in order to complete the mission. This year is no exception. We are looking for individuals with a great attitude who are willing to learn and help. Prior tax experience is helpful but not necessarily a requirement to work in our tax center. We will train you! Our in-house tax expert with over ten years of experience will train

and pass her wealth of knowledge to our tax preparers. You will work under the close supervision of tax experts. Here are a few reasons why you should apply to work or volunteer at our tax center. This is a great opportunity to give back to your community. Our Soldiers are coming back from a long deployment and many need our assistance to file their returns and take advantage of deployment related tax benefits to which they may be entitled. For those who don't know much about taxes, this is a perfect opportunity to gain a very marketable skill. Sometimes, experience, letters of

recommendation, or networking is all you need to land a paid position in these difficult economic times.

Anyone interested in serving as a tax preparer, in either paid or volunteer capacity, please contact us at DSN: 485-7246 or email CPT Alla at albana.alla@us.army.mil and we can tell you more about our tax center and guide you through the application procedures.

If you are interested in a paid position, keep an eye out for job announcements on USA-jobs.

Tax Center Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday 0900 to 1600

Phone Numbers:

DSN 485-1040

Comm. 06783-61040

Location:

Baumholder Legal Center
Building 8222, First Floor

Required Documents:

W2 (all of them if you have more than one)
1099 INT, 1099B, 1099MISC, 1099R (any 1099 documents)
1098 (tuition payments, mortgage interest, etc.)

Information about other income, such as a Lohnsteuerbescheinigung

Prior year tax return

ITIN Number for spouse, if applicable

Social Security Card(s) for all dependents

Day Care Financial Statements

Social Security Number or Tax ID (EIN)

number for FCC Providers who care for your child(ren)



LEGAL ASSISTANCE HOURS AND SERVICES

Mission

The Baumholder Legal Assistance Office provides accurate and timely legal assistance services to Soldiers, Family members, DoD Civilians, and Retirees, covering a wide range of legal topics.

Services:

Appointments:

Legal assistance appointments are made up to two weeks in advance by either coming into the legal assistance office or calling DSN 485-6506, comm. 06783-55606 during business hours.

Legal counseling is provided on an appointment-only basis. Common matters that we can help with include:

Family Law

Wills

Advanced Medical Directive

Health care powers of attorney

OER/NCOR Appeals

FLIPLS

Landlord Tenant

Consumer Law (including phone bills)

Wills:

A Will Worksheet MUST be completed prior to your appointment time to expedite the processing of your Last Will and Testament. These sheets are available online and in our office.

Advanced Medical Directives can be prepared at the same time as your will.

These documents allow you to make advance decisions about life support. Health care powers of attorney allow you to name a person to make medical decisions for you if you become unable to make decisions for yourself.

Powers of Attorney and Notarial Services:

Offered on a walk-in basis at any time during office hours. General powers of attorney and specific powers of attorney are available. Not every document presented can be notarized. Determinations are made based on the Army notary regulation.

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday 0900 to 1600



GETTING MARRIED IN GERMANY

Marriage in Germany is a function of the German civil authorities. ALL required documents must be taken for processing to the Registrar's Office* in the village where either the bride or groom reside. In Baumholder, the processing of the marriage application usually takes 10-14 business days.

A religious ceremony is optional but can only take place **after** the parties have been married in a civil ceremony. The civil ceremony takes place in the town of residence of either the bride or groom.

It is suggested therefore that American citizens contact the competent Registrar's Office for detailed information to make application for marriage.

ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS TO THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE:

1. Affidavit upon Application for Marriage by a Marriage Registrar in Germany. This form can be obtained at the Registrar's Office as well as the Legal Office. Soldiers and other ID card holders, can have this document notarized in the Legal Office. Unless they get it notarized before they arrive, all non-ID card holders must get the Affidavit from the US Consulate in Frankfurt. The consulate's address is: Gießener Str. 30 60435 Frankfurt am Main Federal Republic of Germany, (069) 75350.
2. Original or certified true copy of birth certificate. You must also provide a certified German translation of the birth certificate. The legal office maintains a list of local translators.

3. ID Card or Passport. The passport is required for all persons without US citizenship even if they are members of the US Army.
4. Marriage Certificates from previous Marriage(s). You must also provide a certified German translation of your marriage certificate(s).
5. Divorce Decree in the event of previous marriage(s). The divorce decree must show a statement from the court that the divorce is final and absolute. You must also provide a certified German translation of the Divorce Decree.

*Baumholder, German Registrar's Office: 067838108131

HOW TO FIND A US ATTORNEY TO HELP

Often those living in the military community need to file a court case, such as divorce, in the US. The legal assistance office is not able to file papers and represent clients in court. So it becomes necessary for the client to hire an attorney in the US. There are several ways to locate an US attorney.

Ask family or friends in the state you plan to file in. If people were happy with their attorney, that is a good reference.

Ask your legal assistance attorney if they have a list of local attorneys that practice law at an Army installation near where you plan to file. Go to the Bar Association webpage for your state and under their public pages, look for an attorney referral service. Most states have an online referral service.

Look for an attorney on the internet on sites such as: www.martindale.com or www.findlaw.com